

AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19) (Currently Amended) A low resistance air filter device comprising:

a tubular case (2) for receiving a tubular shaped filtering element (3) having a lower end and an upper end, the filtering element located in the tubular case so as to receive an air flow from surround-a lower air inlet opening (5) provided in a lower opening (9) of the case (2), the tubular case having an upper opening (10), and outlet means (8) disposed over the upper opening (10) and having an outflow opening (7) for discharging filtered air, the outlet means having a trumpet shaped tubular body (11) projecting inwardly from the outlet means into an interior volume of the tubular case, and defining a ~~trapping zone~~ recess forming a trap (21) between an ~~inward end of~~ the trumpet shaped tubular body and an inside wall of the tubular case ~~the outlet means (8)~~, the ~~trapping zone~~ trap (21) capturing objects downstream of the filtering element to prevent transport of the objects with the filtered air, the trumpet shaped tubular body connecting ~~an inner~~ the interior volume of the tubular case with the outflow opening (7), for leading filtered air thereto, deflecting means (6) disposed within the filtering element, the deflecting means forcedly deflecting ~~an~~ the air flow received from the lower inlet opening (5) towards a filter contained within the filter element, for filtering the air passing therethrough as the air flows to the ~~inner~~ interior volume of the tubular ~~easing~~ case and then towards the outflow opening.

20.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein the outlet means (8) are formed integral with the tubular body (11).

21.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein the trumpet shaped tubular body (11) enlarges from the outlet means

(8) towards the filtering element.

22.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein the trumpet shaped tubular body (11) is narrowed from the outlet means towards the filtering element.

23.(Currently Amended) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 further comprising support means (4) fixed to the a lower opening (9) of the tubular case, ~~for fixing the tubular filtering element at the air inlet opening (5).~~

24. (Previously Presented) The low resistance air filtering device of claim 19 wherein said outlet means (8) are provided with a peripheral recess (14) for mating to an inside wall of said tubular case (2) at the upper opening (10).

25.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein said outlet means (8) are detachably mounted to said tubular case (2).

26.(Currently Amended) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein the deflecting means (6) are substantially shaped as a cone having a vertex directed toward the lower air inlet opening (5) and having a base integrally fixed to an upper edge of the filtering element-2.

27.(Previously presented) The low resistance air filter device according to claim 26 wherein said deflecting means (6) have an axial section shaped as two half-parabolas with parallel axes and having branches joined at the vertex for providing a concave (6a) profile or a convex (6b) profile.

28.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device according to claim 19 wherein said tubular case (2) has an elliptical or oval cross section.

29.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein said tubular case (2) is made of a carbon fiber material.

30.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 wherein said filter in said filtering element is made of cotton soaked with low viscosity oil.

31.(Currently Amended) The low resistance air filter device of claim 23 wherein said support means (4) are provided with a peripheral seat (13) for mating to ~~an inside~~ a wall of said tubular case (2) at ~~the~~ a lower opening (9) thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) The low resistance air filter device of claim 23 wherein said tubular case (2) is detachably mounted to said support means (4) ~~by fixing means (14).~~

33. (Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 23 wherein said support means (4) are made out of nylon strengthened with glass fiber.

34.(Previously Presented) The low resistance air flow device of claim 19 wherein said filtering element (3) is cylindrical.

35. (Currently Amended) The low resistance air filter device of claim 19 further comprising spacer means (20) positioned between the trumpet shaped tubular body (11) and the filtering element (3).

36. (Previously Presented) The low resistance air filter device of claim 35 wherein the spacer means (20) mate to the inside wall of the tubular case (2).